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Capital Project Profile: Cottage Grove-East Tawas Transmission Line Rebuild

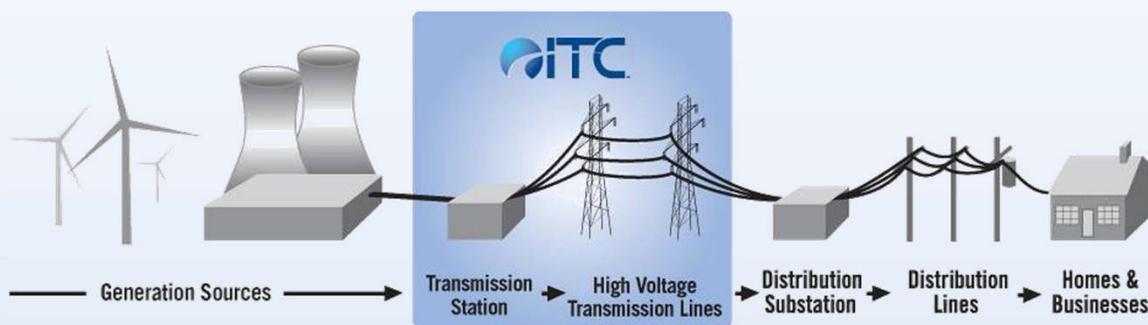
The electric transmission grid currently serving Iosco County was constructed in the mid-1950s and has experienced minimal investment since that time. In particular, the Cottage Grove-East Tawas section of the Iosco-Karn 138,000 volt (138 kV) line has become increasingly unreliable as growing demand for electricity and outdated infrastructure technology have taxed its service capabilities.

Upgrading a section of this line to current design and construction standards, including engineered steel monopoles and aluminum conductors (wires), has increased its capacity and reliability and improve lightning protection.

The 12-mile section of the Cottage Grove-East Tawas line rebuilt in 2013 runs south from a point one mile west of the East Tawas substation, along the western side of Tawas City, then turns west through Tawas Township, continuing along the Tawas-Alabaster township line and Whittemore Road, into Sherman Township to just west of National City Road.

ITC coordinated with appropriate local and state officials on this project. Construction began in the first quarter of 2013 and was completed in October 2013.

In 2011, ITC rebuilt a 12-mile section of the Iosco-Karn line from the East Tawas substation west and north through Tawas, Baldwin, Wilber and Oscoda Townships to the Iosco substation north of River Road. Wood poles, three-legged steel lattice towers and copper lines were replaced with steel monopoles and aluminum conductors.



ITC Holdings Corp., through subsidiaries ITC Transmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC (METC), owns and maintains more than 8,300 miles of high-voltage electric lines and 256 transmission stations throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula. As the nation's largest independent electric transmission company, ITC focuses solely on electric transmission.

The Cottage Grove-East Tawas rebuild is an example of ITC's ongoing commitment to the operational efficiency and reliability of Michigan's high voltage transmission grid. The company has invested more than \$2.2 billion in capital project maintenance and transmission infrastructure improvements in Michigan since 2003. These investments are improving the reliability and safety of the transmission grid while ensuring its ability to meet new energy demands.



27175 Energy Way
Novi, MI 48377

877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)
www.itctransco.com

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Answers to Your Questions

Q: Why was this project necessary?

A. The transmission system serving Iosco County was built in the mid-1900s and needs to be upgraded to meet increasing electrical demand. Some of the lines, poles and towers on the Cottage Grove-East Tawas section of the Iosco-Karn 138 kilovolt (kV) line are more than 50 years old. They have reached their design capacity limits and have become difficult to maintain. ITC subsidiary Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC (METC) upgraded this 12-mile section in order to improve reliability and to meet current design and construction standards, including increased lightning protection.

Q. Where is this project located?

A. The 12-mile section of the Cottage Grove-East Tawas line to be rebuilt runs south from a point one mile west of the East Tawas substation, along the western side of Tawas City, then turns west through Tawas Township, continuing along the Tawas-Alabaster township line and along Whittemore Road into Sherman Township to just west of National City Road.

Q. What do the new lines and towers look like?

A. The new towers are steel monopoles which are stronger and more reliable than the existing wood poles and three-legged steel structures. ITC replaced the existing copper lines with new aluminum conductors capable of carrying more electricity safely and reliably (see photo at lower right).

Q: Were additional land or easements be needed?

A. No, all of the reconstruction work is taking place within existing rights of way and easements.

Q. When did this project start, and how long did it take?

A. Construction began early in the first quarter of 2013 and was completed in October 2013.

Q. What efforts did ITC make to protect the environment in the area?

A. ITC worked with appropriate state and local agencies, including the Michigan DNRE, to review project plans and obtain appropriate permits to erect towers and lines through this region.

Q. What local permits, if any did ITC have to obtain to reconstruct this transmission line?

A. ITC coordinated with all state and local agencies as well as local municipalities to ensure that all required permits such as road crossings, drain crossings and soil and erosion permits were obtained. Local zoning approvals were not necessary because the reconstruction process is taking place entirely within our existing rights of way and easements.



ITC replaced older towers on the Cottage Grove-East Tawas transmission line (top) with new monopole structures (bottom).



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